

"A CHANGE OF DIRECTION" THE POTENTIAL AND THE PASSION

A brief history of Open Eyes Ministries of Central America (OEM)

The Call: God seems to place us in the strangest places to open our eyes and hearts to His will for our lives: from 25+ years in health care positions to full-time ministry to my first mission trip to full-time missionary. In 1999 God burdened us (my wife, Arlene and I) with the lost people of Nicaragua who needed to hear the gospel. Much like Moses, I complained that I was too old, couldn't speak the language and really didn't want to go. But, He let me know it was not about me, but all about HIM. After much prayer and seeking advice from my mentors and many miracles in our lives at that time, we sold our home and most of our possessions and set a date to move to Leon, Nicaragua for His glory.

The Vision: Again, like Moses, after we received the call, I asked God what He wanted me to do in Central America. He said to me, "I want you to use the gifts I have given you and the gifts of those will come along side of you to be a witness for me in Nicaragua". Specifically, God laid on my heart to bring vision and leadership skills to pastors, churches, leaders and organizations to be catalysts for evangelism and cell group ministry across Nicaragua. Wow! I can still hear the instruction He gave us!

We believe developing leaders is our first priority; then establishing cell groups, evangelism, discipleship and sending. We believe that God's will is that we begin the work and the leaders in these nations continue it with the support of OEM.

The Journey: The journey began on October 26, 1999, as I drove from Knoxville, Tennessee to the Colonial Hotel in downtown Leon, Nicaragua. After 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days, 3,200 miles and many exciting and frightening moments, my interpreter and I arrived. Then on November 4th, Arlene and a team from Faith Promise Church came with 14 suitcases; which contained most of our remaining possessions.

After seven weeks, we moved into our first home and through the only person we knew in Nicaragua, Pastor Fausto Perez, we began Open Eyes Ministries. As we began teaching and preaching, our vision spread from church to church, denomination to denomination, to organizations like the National Police and others. Teams from United States began to increase

and miracles have been abundant. Many people have been saved and lives are being changed. Now the Lord has placed us in Honduras and has also led us to Costa Rica. The Journey has been supernatural and continues even today.

The Results: God, in His mercy and grace, has allowed us to be part of over:

1. One million and 250 thousand professions of faith.
2. Working with over 3,000 churches and organizations.
3. Having input to over 25,000 cell groups.
4. Teaching values and ethics in schools and changing lives through sports ministries.
5. Seeing a harvest from our women's ministry.
6. Hosting 197 teams
7. 36 Crusades.
8. Being the sole supporter of 22 employees.

Thousands of pastors and leaders have been trained through our leadership center and they continue to teach and lead others. We have given "certificates of completion" to over 4,000 church leaders, police, schools and organizations.

As we travel to visit and share the vision across Central America and the United States, work here continues through our employees, zone pastors and leaders.

The Future: God has promised through visions, experiences and His Word to take us to all of Central America and Brazil. How and when, I don't know, but from Nicaragua to Honduras to Costa Rica, to wherever is no problem to God. I believe that if we are faithful, He will provide all that is necessary. We are praying for a supernatural revival in these countries; where people everywhere are convicted of their sins, repent and are disciplined; where churches are full every day and jails empty, bars closed and a godly presence through the Holy Spirit prevails.

The Said it:

Ronnie Hill (Evangelist, Ronnie Hill Ministries):

I just wanted to drop a note to you and let you know how much I appreciate your ministry inviting our team to come down and partner with you for a week in Honduras! What an incredible experience! I

have been all over the world on many mission trips, but I have never had one of this quality! Your entire ministry and team mirrors excellence: professional and humble translators, awesome meals from the cooking staff, excellent accommodations and price, well thought out follow-up plan on decisions and super-organized events and ministry opportunities!

Thank you again and I am looking forward to bringing back many teams in the future!!!

Chris Stephens (Sr. Pastor, Faith Promise Church, Knoxville, TN): I have known Terry and Arlene duPont since 1996 and have participated in numerous mission projects with them through the years. I have sent hundreds of our church members to Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica to be part of their outreach efforts. They are two of the most effective missionaries in the planet. I have never seen God's blessings poured out in such a mighty way than on these precious souls. The earth will never be the same because of Open Eyes Ministries.

Dennis Watson (Sr. Pastor, Celebration Church, Metairie Louisiana): God is moving in incredible ways in the poverty stricken nations of Central America and one of the vehicles He is mightily using is Terry duPont and Open Eyes Ministries. When you meet and travel in ministry with Terry duPont, you will quickly see that he is a man on fire for God who is especially gifted in training people to reach the lost, make disciples and develop leaders. God is using this man to reach nations for Jesus.

The world will be changed through the unity of churches, organization and Christians. Open Eyes Ministry would love to partner with you and your church to help change Central America.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we pray that you will be blessed.